

# Borrell slams US hypocrisy over Gaza



AFP

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell sharply criticized the US administration for lamenting the growing death toll in Gaza while, at the same time, providing Israel with weapons to prop up its military campaign. Speaking in Brussels on Monday, hours after Israeli forces bombarded the southern Gazan town of Rafah, Borrell called on Washington to stop pleading with Israel to cease the killing of civilians and to start "doing something" instead. "How many times have you heard the most

prominent leaders and foreign ministers around the world saying, "Too many people are being killed"? President Biden said, "This is over the top," Borrell said, referring to Biden's recent remarks, according to Euronews. "Well, if you believe that too many people are being killed, maybe you should provide less arms in order to prevent so many people being killed." "It is a little bit contradictory to continue saying that there are too many people being killed, please take care of people, please don't

kill so many," he went on. "Stop saying please and start doing something." The reproach came hours after an appeals court in the Netherlands ordered the government to halt deliveries of parts of F-35 fighter jets to Israel for fears Dutch exports could be contributing to violations of international law in light of the International Court of Justice ruling. The US administration has in recent months bypassed Congress to continue sending weapons to Israel, whilst also calling for restraint in its war on Gaza, which

has claimed the lives of more than 28,000 Palestinians. It is estimated that Israel has received more military aid from the US than any other nation since the 1950s, owing to a long-standing, bipartisan policy of support. "If the international community believes that this is a slaughter, that too many people are being killed, maybe they have to think about the provision of arms," Borrell said. Data shared with Euronews suggests many more EU countries – including Italy and Germa-

ny – have also provided Israel with some of the military equipment and components used in its offensives. The Delas research center claims Europeans are together "one of Israel's main suppliers of military systems and equipment" behind the US, and that member states have licensed military contracts worth over €2 billion to Israel, including for ammunition, weapon firing equipment and components for military aircraft and vehicles. Borrell's remarks came as the Israeli regime is

preparing for a ground offensive into the crowded southern Gaza city of Rafah where about 1.4 million displaced Palestinians are struggling to survive in shelters and tent camps. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to send ground troops into Rafah. Aid groups and foreign governments have voiced deep concern over the potentially disastrous consequences of expanding operations in Rafah, which they say would worsen an already dire humanitarian situation.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran launches ballistic missile from warship for first time



#### National Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) released footage on Tuesday, showing it successfully launched long-range ballistic missiles from one of its warships for the first time. According to IRNA, the IRGC's Navy is now capable of carrying ballistic missiles with a range of 1,750 kilometers. The two Fateh-class missiles successfully hit the targets in Iran's central desert, Dasht-e Kavir. Chief Commander of the IRGC Major General Hossein Salami said on Monday that the achievement means that the IRGC will have the capacity to hit any target because its ocean-cruising warships can sail to any location around the world. Salami said the long-range ballistic missiles were fired in joint cooperation between the IRGC Aerospace Force and the IRGC Navy. The development comes amid Iran's growing success in expansion of its defensive missile program. The country has used the missiles in attacks in recent years on terrorist targets located as far as the Mediterranean Sea. However, Iran has repeatedly declared that its missile capabilities are solely used for deterrence and defense.

### Iran wins rulings in five international cases: VP

Iran's Vice President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehqan said the Islamic Republic has recently won rulings in five international cases. Dehqan said that one case pertains a number of Iranian schools which had been confiscated in some Persian Gulf littoral states, Press TV reported. The case was followed up by domestic courts and a verdict was issued in favor of Iran, he added. Dehqan also pointed to another legal case in which the Supreme Court of Luxembourg issued a judgment in October 2023 on the release of 1.7 billion dollars of Iran's frozen assets in the European country. According to the verdict, the legal obstacles to access the 1.7 billion dollars of the foreign currency assets of the Central Bank of Iran in Luxembourg have been removed. The vice president noted that further information would be announced later regarding the other cases.

## Iran denounces US approach toward expansion of war in region



mfa.gov.ir

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian denounced US "contradictory" approach toward the expansion of Gaza war into the region. In a meeting with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday, the Iranian foreign minister said that the US claims it does not want to expand the war in the Middle East region while it launches

strikes on Yemen, Iraq and Syria. During the meeting, Amir-Abdollahian also praised the "constructive" relations of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Qatar on regional and international issues. The Iranian foreign minister also hailed Qatar's mediating role in certain cases related to Iran. Cooperation between Tehran and Doha,

Amir-Abdollahian said, contributes to regional and international peace and stability. On Israel's bloody campaign in the besieged Gaza Strip, Iran's foreign minister underscored the need for accelerating joint efforts by Tehran and Doha towards a political solution. The Emir of Qatar, for his part, said that Tehran-Doha ties are closer than ever, which

demonstrates the two countries' progress in advancing relations. He appreciated Iran's diplomatic efforts in supporting the Palestinians and pursuing a political solution to end the war in Gaza. Separately on Tuesday, Amir-Abdollahian met with Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, to discuss the

latest developments in Gaza. Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Doha on Monday as part of his regional tour that began on Friday and earlier took him to Syria and Lebanon. During his stay in Qatar, the foreign minister also held talks with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Cyberattack hits Iran Parliament websites

#### National Desk

The websites of Iran's Parliament and its affiliated news agency went down Tuesday after they were targeted by hackers. According to a statement by the Iranian Parliament, the websites of the Parliament and Khane Mellat (ICANA.ir) news agency were hacked and became unavailable since Tuesday morning due to a cyberattack. The statement said the scale of the cyberattack is under investigation by expert technical teams.

A hacking group called "Uprising till Overthrow," affiliated with anti-Iran terrorist group, Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), claimed responsibility for the attack. Iran considers the MKO a terrorist organization. In a statement on its Telegram channel, the group claimed it hacked 600 servers affiliated with Iran's Parliament and released hundreds of pages of hacked material on its Telegram page. The Parliament's statement said that the initial inves-

tigation shows that some documents released by the hackers have been fabricated. The cyberattack took place less than three weeks before Iran goes to the polls to elect a new Parliament on March 1. Websites linked to Iran's government and affiliated media outlets have suffered several cyberattacks over the years. A December cyberattack disrupted fuel sales at 60 percent of Iran's petrol stations for weeks before services were fully resumed.